supplied with sterilized gloves. No instance of recycling of syringes has been reported. The CT Scan which was out of order for want of CT Scan Tube, is functioning at present.

Conditions in Government Hospitals

452. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines/drugs/ortho items are generally not available in Central Government and the State Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to evaluate the situation;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to various other shortcomings existing in Government hospitals like LNJP, DDU, Safdarjung, as appearing in Hindustan Times, City dated 29th October, 1999; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of life saving, essential medicines and basic ortho itmes in Central Government hospitals and hospitals under Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) and (d) The laboratory investigations and operation of equipments is done by trained technical personnel under the supervison of Consultants in laboratories and the other departments in Central Government hospitals in Delhi. In Safdarjung Hospital, six equipments of various departments are not functioning and action has been initiated to make them functional. Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that no such irregularities have come to notice in respect of hospitals under their administrative control.

Effectiveness of BCG Vaccine

453. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fifteen year study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research has come up with the revelation that India's only available tuberculosis vaccine (BCG) does not work;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the US stopped BCG as a vaccine many years ago; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The recently published ICMR report of

the BCG prevention trial conducted by Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai reiterated the findings made in the earlier report that was published in 1980. The report indicates that BCG offered no overall protection in adults and a low level of overall protection against pulmonary tuberculosis in children. However, results of studies on protective effect of BCG on TB meningitis and miliary tuberculosis (which are severe forms of tuberculosis) done in India and abroad have shown that BCG offers substantial protection against these two forms of tuberculosis in children (about 70%).

(b) BCG vaccination is not recommended as a routine strategey for TB control in the United States, therefore, the question of stopping BCG vaccine does not arise.

(c) The ICMR is of the opinion that BCG vaccination in infants should continue under the Universal Immunization Programme in India in view of its value in preventing childhood forms of tuberculosis (especially TB meningitis & miliary TB).

Unsatisfactory Conditions in Safdarjung Hospital

454. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a series of articles published in the Hindustan Times dated 2nd, 15th and 23rd October, 1999 highlighting the conditions of the Safdarjung Hospital labelled by the Hospital Authorities as one of the Asia's biggest Hospitals;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a Commission to look in to the various lapses of Hospital administration, poor maintenance and unsatisfactory medical attention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached. (*see* below);

(c) There is no such proposal.

Statement

Issues Mentioned in the News Reports Action taken by the Government

The News Report dt. 2nd October, 1999 inter-alia mentioned about the non-satisfactory condition of the hospital with regard to cleanliness, non-cleanliness of the water tank since last April, non-functioning of CSSD Unit leading to shortage of glass syringes, coming back of linen from laundry with blood stains, presence of malbas in the hospital premises, non-functioning of CT Scan, recycling of syringes, etc.